MARVEL LEGACY

LOKI: SORCERER SUPREME

385

THE DOCTOR STRANGE

CATES
WALTA
BELLAIRE

STEPHEN STRANGE WAS A PREEMINENT SURGEON UNTIL A CAR ACCIDENT DAMAGED THE NERVES IN HIS HANDS. HIS EGO DROVE HIM TO SCOUR THE GLOBE FOR A MIRACLE CURE. INSTEAD, HE FOUND A MYSTERIOUS WIZARD CALLED THE ANCIENT ONE WHO TAUGHT HIM MAGIC AND THAT THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD BIGGER THAN HIMSELF. THESE LESSONS ENABLED STEPHEN TO BECOME THE SORCERER SUPREME, EARTH'S FIRST DEFENSE AGAINST ALL MANNER OF MAGICAL THREATS. HIS PATIENTS CALL HIM...

DOCTOR STRANGE

LAST TIME...

THOUGH LOKI HAS BEEN AN ADMIRABLE SORCERER SUPREME SINCE HE WON THE TITLE, STEPHEN STRANGE DECIDED HE WAS GETTING TOO CLOSE TO FINDING THE EXILE OF SINGHSOON—A SPELL THAT TRANSFERS ALL THE WORLD'S MAGIC TO ITS CASTER, AND THAT STRANGE HAD HIDDEN IN THE SOUL OF HIS FRIEND, ZELMA STANTON, APPRENTICE TO THE SORCERER SUPREME. HE FEARED LOKI WOULD REMOVE THE EXILE...KILLING ZELMA.

STRANGE STORMED ASGARD AND RECEIVED A GIFT OF MAGIC FROM THE WORLD TREE, RECRUITED THE ALL-POWERFUL SENTRY TO PAY THE PRICE FOR IT AND, THUS ARMED, ATTACKED LOKI. STILL, THE GOD OF LIES WAS NEARLY VICTORIOUS. BELIEVING THE FATE OF THE WORLD (AND ZELMA) TO BE ON THE LINE, STRANGE RELEASED THE VOID—THE SENTRY'S DARK OPPOSITE—FROM ITS PRISON IN THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM, AND HELD STILL WHILE IT POSSESSED HIM.

"LOKI: SORCERER SUPREME"
PART FIVE

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I DIDN'T BRING THE SENTRY BACK TO LIFE.
THE TRUTH IS, HE WAS NEVER DEAD.
AFTER HE WAS TURNED INTO A HORSEMAN OF THE APOCALYPSE, I SEARCHED FOR SENTRY AMONGST THE STARS.
I FOUND HIM. WANDERING. TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO DIE...
RAGGGHHHH!!!
THERE, WITH A VOICE LIKE A BILLION EXPLODING SUNS, ROBERT ASKED ME TO KILL HIM.
WITH A HEAVY HEART, I REPLIED...
WHAT IS THIS?! LOKI, WHAT DO WE DO?!
I...
..."HOW?"
I DON'T KNOW...

THAT'S ENCOURAGING. THANKS.
ZELMA, Y-YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. THAT THING IS--
THE TRUTH!

I AM THE INEVITABLE HORRID TRUTH OF EVERYTHING, LITTLE ONE.
I AM WHERE ALL THINGS GO TO DIE. I AM THE SUFFOCATION OF ALL THAT YOU HOLD DEAR.
THE END OF HOPE. THE HIDDEN LAID BARE.
I AM THE END OF ALL LIES.

IT'S NO WONDER I SCARE YOU SO, LITTLE LYING GOD. BUT YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY KEEPER OF UNTRUTHS HERE.
STEPHEN'S MIND AND MAGIC ARE MINE NOW.
I KNOW ALL OF HIS LITTLE SSSSSECRETS...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR A GOOD ONE?

EH, HAHA! BEHOLD!

AGH! WHAT THE--LOKI?! I'M GLOWING. WHY AM I GLOWING?!

EVEN TRAPPED INSIDE OF THE VOID, I COULD FEEL IT.

TELL HER, LOKI! HAHA! TELL HER WHAT HE HA--

ENOUGH!!!

LOKI'S HATRED FOR ME AS HE LEARNED WHAT I HAD DONE.

OH, STEPHEN...

LOKI, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS!

IT'S THE EXILE OF SINGHSOON. STEPHEN BOUND THE SPELL TO YOUR SOUL.

WHAT?! WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?!

ZELMA'S MIND RACING FROM THE BETRAYAL, THE HORROR.

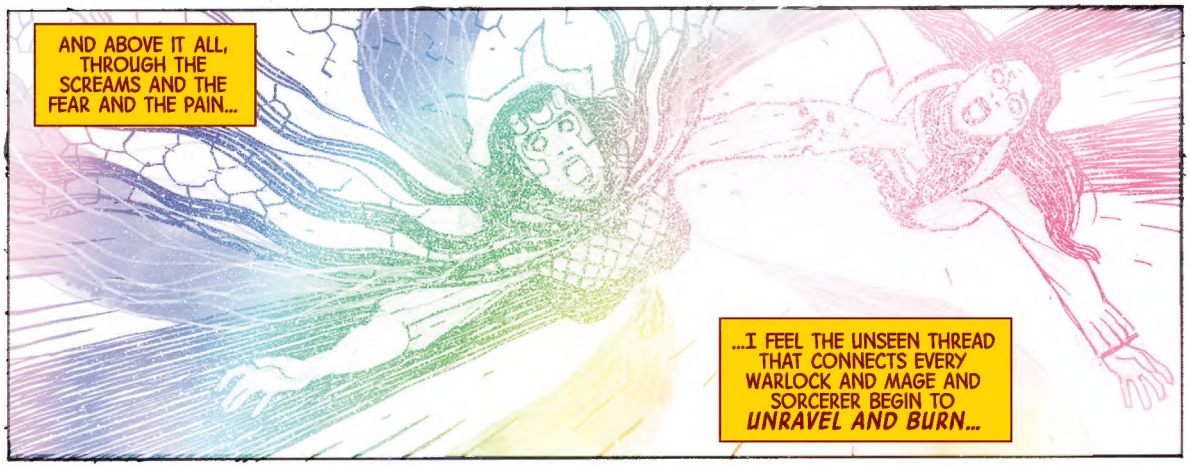
THE FEAR.

HAHA! DO IT! DO IT, LOKI! SHOW ME! SHOW ME WHO YOU ARE!!!

AND THEN, SUDDENLY, BREAKING...

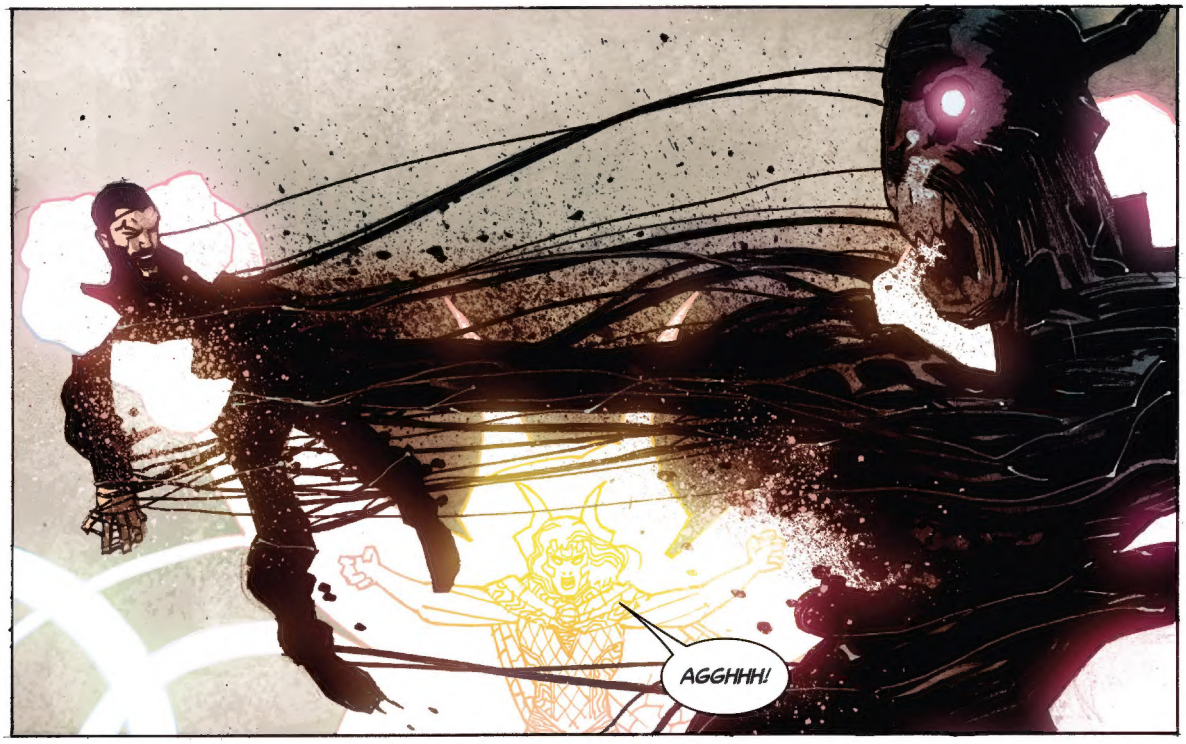
IT'S OKAY. WE'RE GOING TO FIX THIS. JUST... CLOSE YOUR EYES.

...BY THE PAIN OF HER SOUL BEING RIPPED IN TWO.
AGGHHH!!!

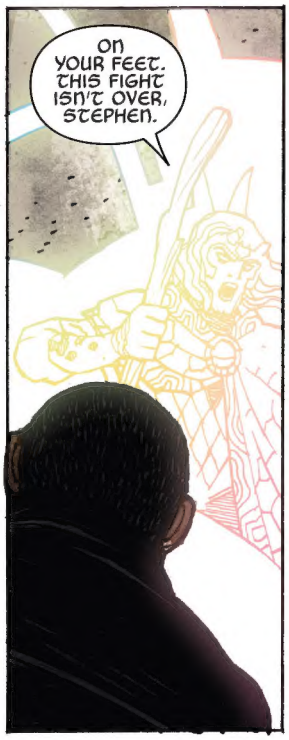

AND ABOVE IT ALL, THROUGH THE SCREAMS AND THE FEAR AND THE PAIN...
...I FEEL THE UNSEEN THREAD THAT CONNECTS EVERY WARLOCK AND MAGE AND SORCERER BEGIN TO UNRAVEL AND BURN...

...AS THE GOD OF LIES ABSORBS EVERY LAST DROP OF MAGIC ON THE EARTH INTO HIMSELF.

YES!!! FINALLY! THE GOD OF BETRAYAL IS BORN AGAIN!
I KNEW IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF-- AGH! BURNS!! BURNS!!

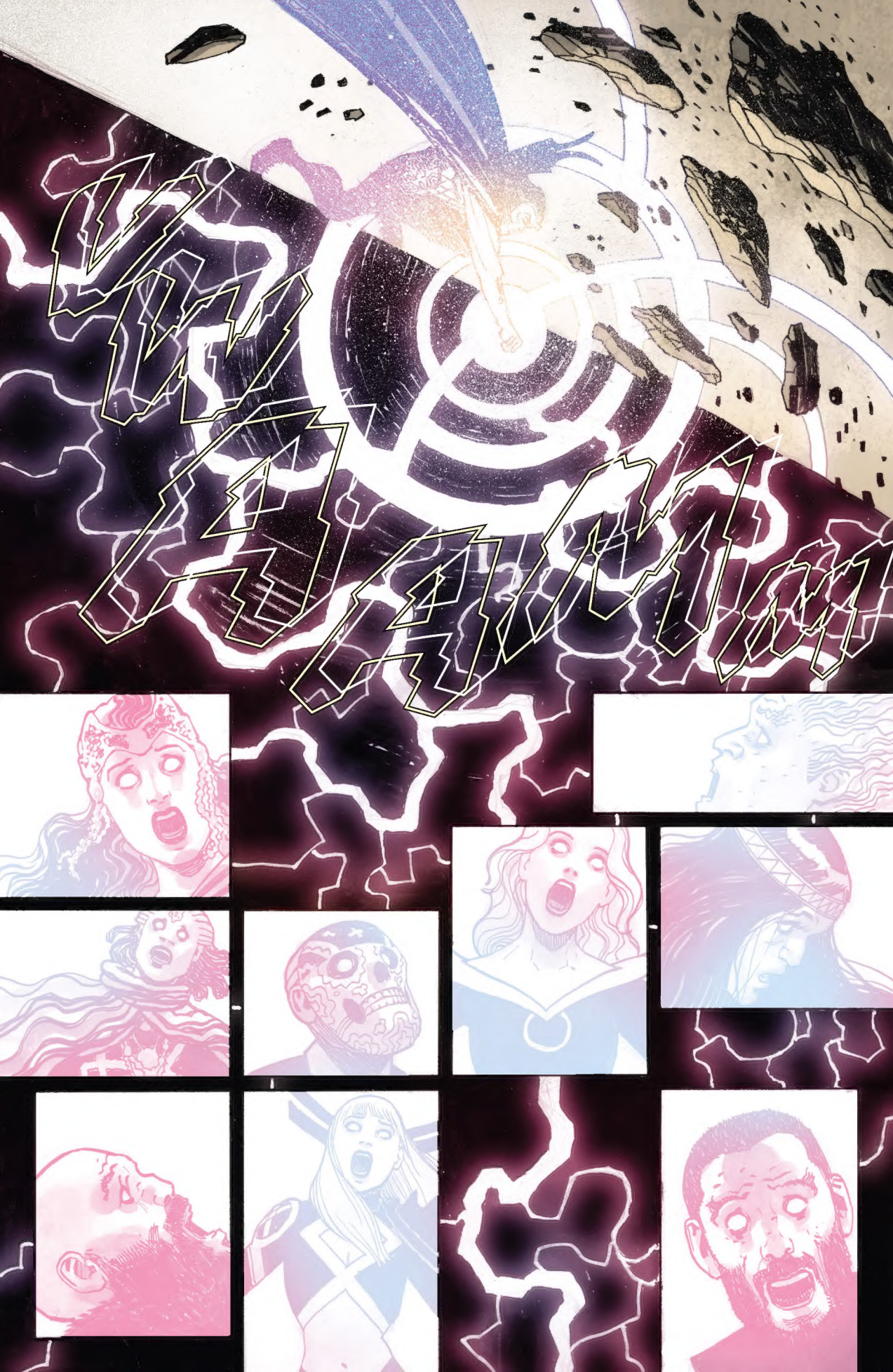

AGGHHH!

AGH!


ON YOUR FEET. THIS FIGHT ISN'T OVER, STEPHEN.

LOKI, WHAT HAVE YOU...I CAN'T FIGHT! I DON'T HAVE ANY MAGIC!

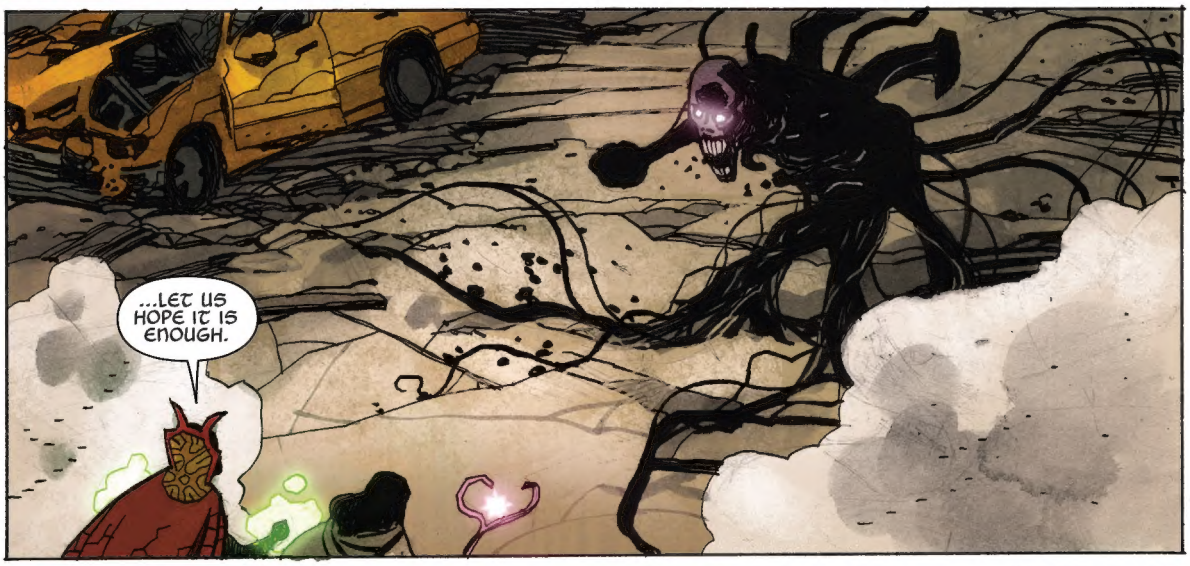
I KNOW...
I'M WORKING ON IT.


KRAKOOM

I CAN FEEL IT...THE POWER. IT'S...LOKI, WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?
I USED THE EXILE OF SINGHSOON TO CONSOLIDATE MIDGARD'S MAGIC INTO MYSELF SO I COULD JUMP-START THE DRAGON LINES.
YOU...YOU BROUGHT MAGIC BACK?
WELL, OF COURSE.

I'M THE SORCERER SUPREME, STEPHEN. WHAT DID YOU THINK I WAS GOING TO USE THE SPELL FOR?

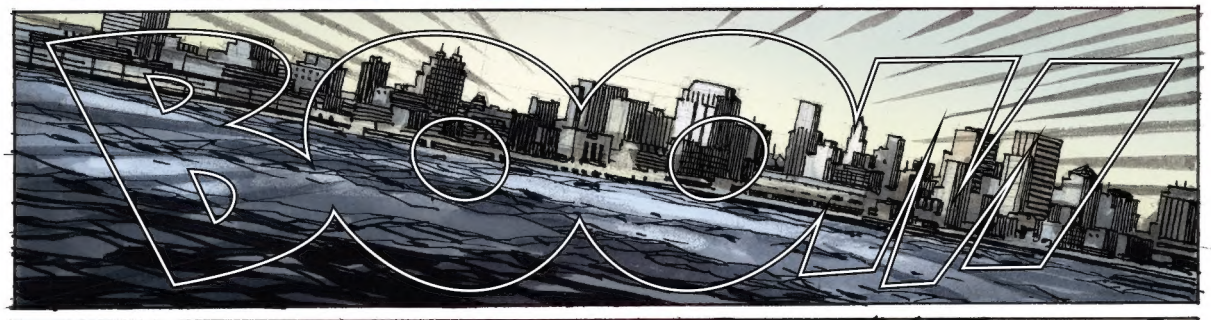
...
DON'T ANSWER THAT. SADLY, IT'S NOT A PERMANENT FIX. THE DAMAGE DONE BY THE EMPIRIKUL WAS RATHER SEVERE. BUT, WELL...


...LET US HOPE IT IS ENOUGH.

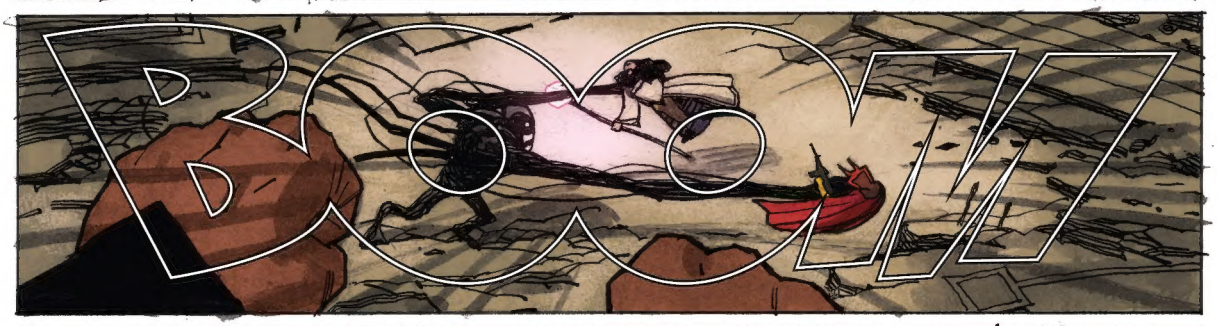
BY THE HOARY @#$% HOSTS OF HOGGOTH...

BOOM

REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, IF ZELMA HAS BEEN HARMED, I WILL--
OH, PLEASE. I'M SURE TO YOU EXCISING A SPELL FROM A SOUL MUST SEEM QUITE DIFFICULT. BUT YOU FORGET--I'M A GOD, STEPHEN.
SHE'S FINE. NOW, SHALL WE GET TO WORK?
...
YES. LET'S.


BOOM

AGH!
HAHA!

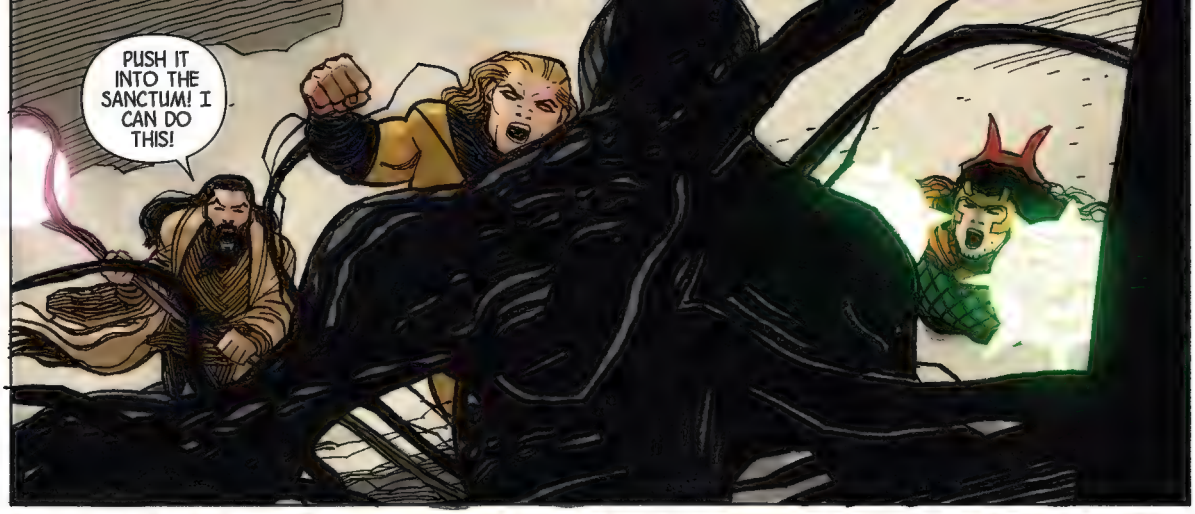

BOOM

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!
KEEP FIGHTING, LOKI!

KRAKOA

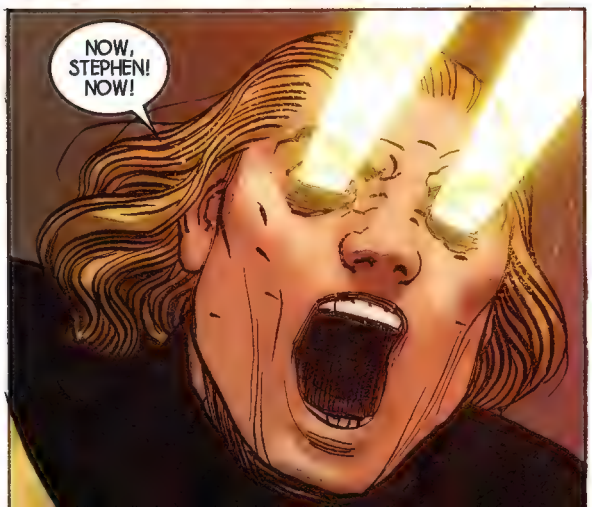
STEPHEN, DID YOU RESURRECT THE SENTRY?
NOT REALLY, NO. YOU SEE, HE WAS NEVER REALLY--
ACTUALLY, I DON'T CARE.

COME ON!


PUSH IT INTO THE SANCTUM! I CAN DO THIS!

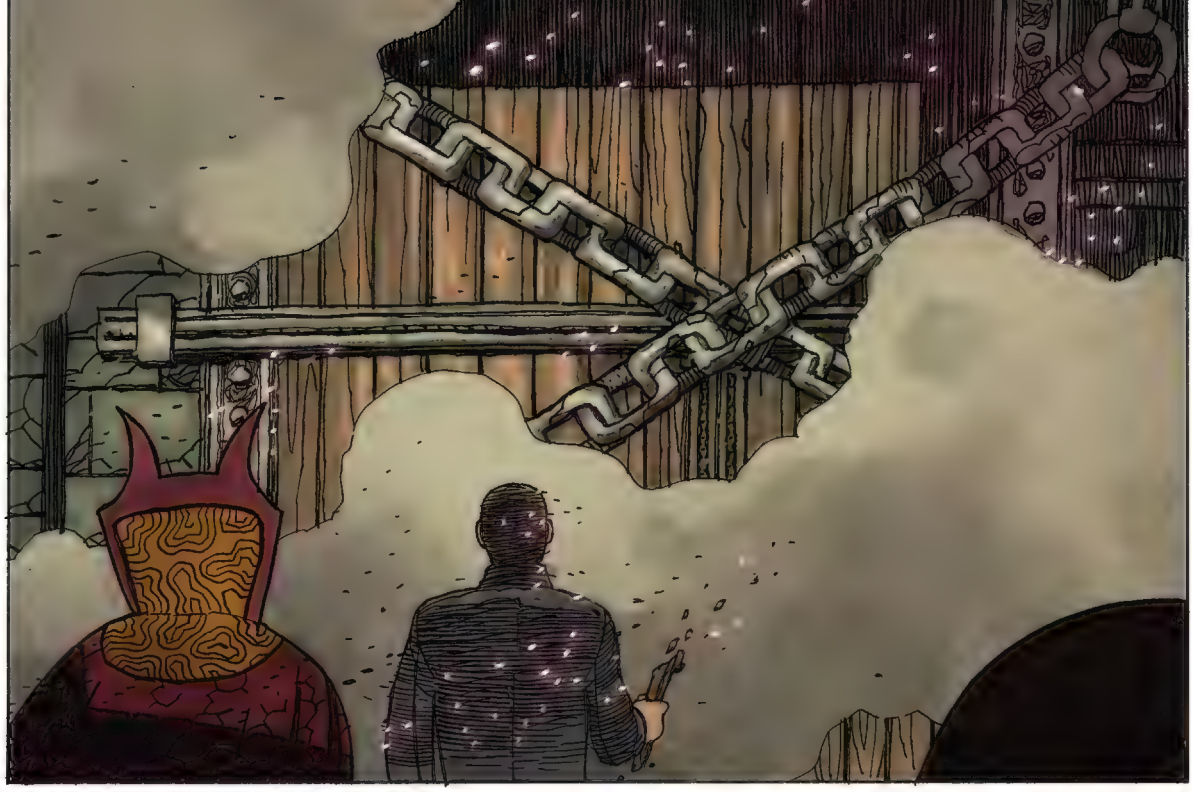
TAKE YOU ALL WITH ME!!!

NOOOO! NEVER AGAIN!


NOW, STEPHEN! NOW!

HAAAGHH!!!

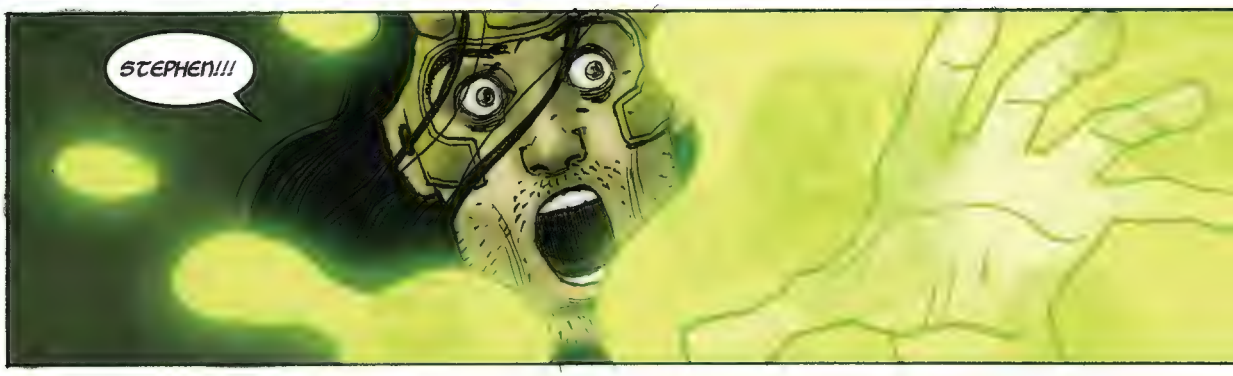
WAAA-BOOM
AGH!



WE...WE DID IT. I KNEW WE COULD--

WAIT!

I TOLD YOU!


STEPHEN!!!

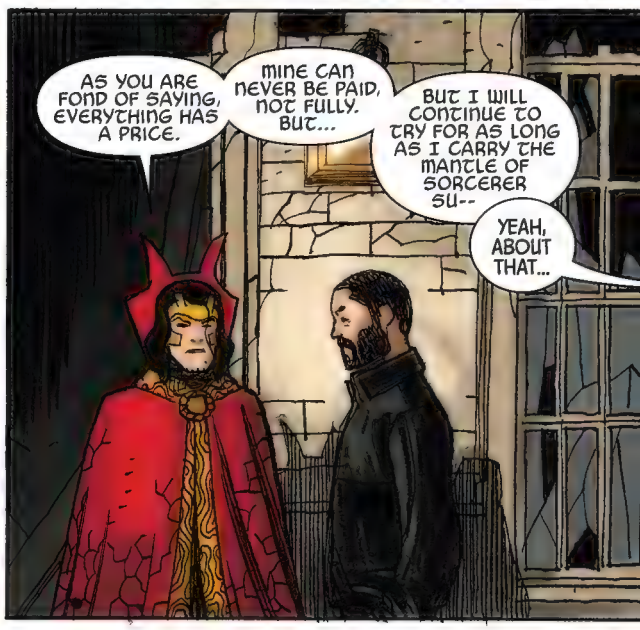
BOOM
ROBERT, PLEASE! I NEVER MEANT TO--
DON'T LIE TO ME!
YOU MADE ME A PROMISE! YOU TOLD ME THE VOID WAS CONTAINED! THAT IT WASN'T A PROBLEM! AND THEN YOU DO THIS?!
YOU TOLD ME WE HAD TO PROTECT THE WORLD!
I DIDN'T KNOW WE'D HAVE TO PROTECT IT FROM YOU.
I TRUSTED YOU, STEPHEN.
DON'T EVER CONTACT ME AGAIN. JUST... JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.
ROBERT, WAIT! I'M--
BOOM
...SORRY...

I'M SURE HE'LL GET OVER IT, STEPHEN. DON'T WORRY.
TH-THANK YOU...
LISTEN...

I...I'M ASHAMED OF MYSELF, LOKI.
THIS GOT... WILDLY OUT OF HAND AND...AND PEOPLE COULD HAVE BEEN HURT AND...WELL, I SHOULD HAVE JUST SPOKEN TO YOU. I ASSUMED THAT YOU'D--
THAT THIS WAS ALL A PART OF SOME GRAND PLOT TO DESTROY THE WORLD?
WELL... YES.

I GET THAT.
YOU DO?
STEPHEN... I AM QUITE A LOT OF THINGS, BUT I AM NOT NAIVE.

I KNOW WHAT I AM.
I KNOW HOW PEOPLE THINK OF ME. IT'S WHY I'VE DONE THIS... ALL OF THIS.


AS YOU ARE FOND OF SAYING, EVERYTHING HAS A PRICE.
MINE CAN NEVER BE PAID, NOT FULLY. BUT...
BUT I WILL CONTINUE TO TRY FOR AS LONG AS I CARRY THE MANTLE OF SORCERER SU--
YEAH, ABOUT THAT...

TELL HIM, LOKI. TELL HIM OR I WILL.

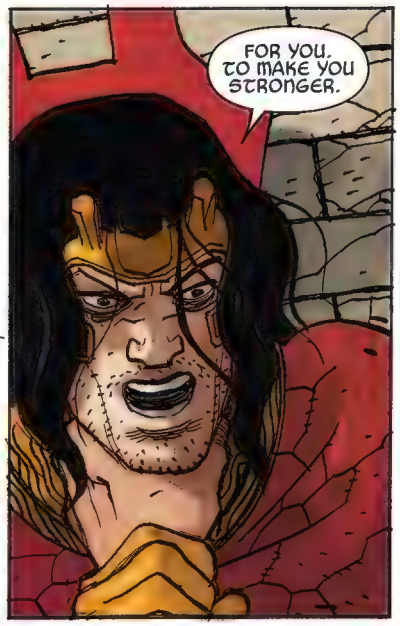
ZELMA! YOU'RE OKAY! WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT--
SHOVE IT. I MEAN IT, LOKI. TELL HIM RIGHT NOW.
WHAT IS THIS?
I'M SURE I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU--

I SAW IT. YOU REACHED INTO MY SOUL, REMEMBER?
WELL, GUESS WHAT, GENIUS? THAT WAS A TWO-WAY STREET. I SAW EVERYTHING YOU WERE TRYING TO KEEP FROM ME. FROM US.
SERIOUSLY. LOKI.
TELL HIM.

OKAY, OKAY...
SO, THERE... NEVER WAS A TOURNAMENT. IT WAS AN ILLUSION. THE WHOLE THING.
BUT...YOU KNOW, IN MY DEFENSE, THE FACT THAT I COULD TRICK YOU AT ALL IS DECENT EVIDENCE THAT YOU DIDN'T DESERVE TO BE--

KRAK
GAH!

WHY? WHY DO THIS?


FOR YOU. TO MAKE YOU STRONGER.

BECAUSE THERE ARE THINGS COMING, STEPHEN STRANGE. THINGS NONE OF YOU ARE PREPARED FOR.

THE WAR OF THE REALMS.

HELL ON EARTH. DAMNATION.

THE GATHERING OF THE INFINITY STONES.

THE FINAL HOST.

AND BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO FACE ANY OF THEM, STEPHEN.
PITY PARTIES DON'T WIN WARS. AND NEITHER DO RULES.
YOU NEEDED TO LEARN HOW TO BREAK EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM IN ORDER TO SAVE THIS REALM.

YOU'VE LEARNED THAT NOW. YOU'RE READY.
AND YOU'RE WELCOME.

NOT BUYING IT, EH?
NOT... REALLY, NO.
AYE, NOT MY BEST. HOW'S THIS, THEN...

PERHAPS YOUR JOURNEY TO ASGARD WAS A PART OF MY PLAN ALL ALONG. PERHAPS YOU WALKED RIGHT INTO MY TRAP AND HELPED ME SET OFF A CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT...
...NO. NO, THAT'S NO GOOD.
AH! HOW'S THIS, THEN! ZELMA. YES, ZELMA IS SO MUCH MORE THAN YOU WILL EVER KNOW, STEPHEN. I HAVE SEEN HER FUTURE...
ALL THAT I HAVE DONE, I DID IN AN EFFORT TO ENDEAR MYSELF TO THE NEXT GREAT SORCERER SUPREME!
OR HEL, PERHAPS I JUST DID IT BECAUSE I WAS BORED, AND I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HILAR--

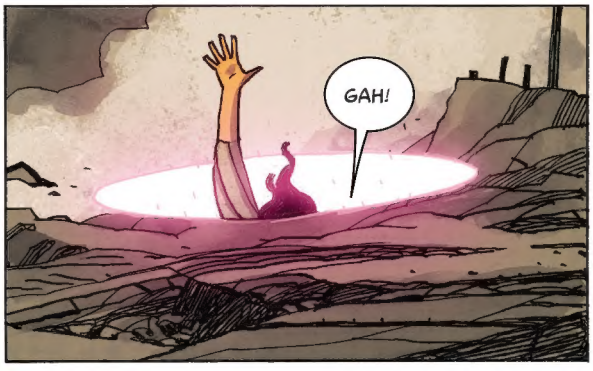
SHUT UP, LOKI. JUST GIVE ME MY CLOAK AND LEAVE MY HOME WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

THAT SEEMS FAIR.

AH, THERE IS JUST...JUST ONE MORE THING, STEPHEN...

YOUR FRIEND. BATS.
NO MATTER THE REASON WHY, THAT...WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.
I AM TRULY SORRY ABOUT THAT. I'VE BEEN... TRYING TO REMEDY THAT SITUATION, AND WELL...
I HOPE MY EFFORTS WILL SUFFICE. AND FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, YOU HAVE MY SINCERE--

WHATEVER.


GAH!

WHERE DID YOU SEND HIM?
NOWHERE FUN. I'M SURE HE'LL LAND ON HIS FEET.
ZELMA... THANK YOU.

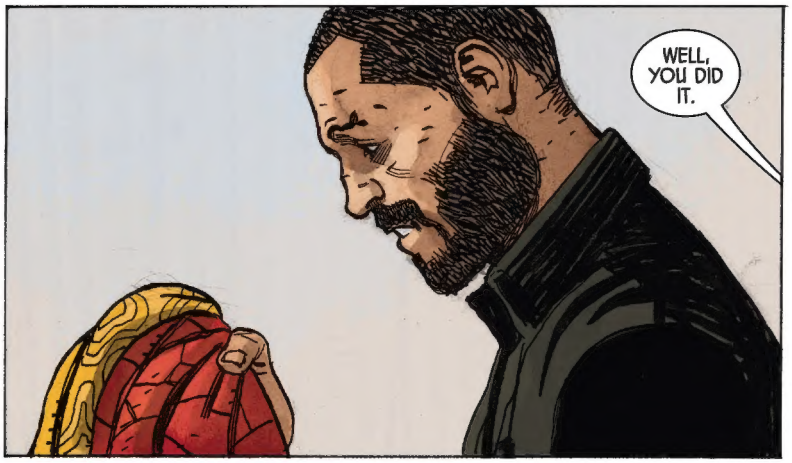
I KNOW THIS HAS ALL BEEN... CONFUSING AND, WELL, I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT--

I'M LEAVING, STEPHEN.

...WHAT?

YOU HID A SPELL... A WORLD-ENDING SPELL IN MY SOUL! AND YOU DIDN'T TRUST ME ENOUGH TO TELL ME ABOUT IT!
OR--OR GOD FORBID, TEACH ME HOW TO ACCESS IT, SO I COULD HAVE... I DON'T KNOW...HELPED YOU, OR BEATEN THAT THING OR...
I'M...
I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE...

I THINK I JUST NEED A BREAK FROM LIARS.


WELL, YOU DID IT.

CONGRATULATIONS, DOC...

...YOU WON.
GHW 2018
NEXT: DAMNATION!

NEXT: DAMNATION!
#386 ON SALE IN FEBRUARY!

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